

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0051]

An improved coin hopper that can be provided as original equipment or as a conversion member for a coin dispensing apparatus is provided. The coin hopper includes a housing member having a cavity for storing coins when mounted in a coin dispensing apparatus and a movable member operatively connected to the cavity of the housing member for increasing and decreasing the storage volume available for coins in the housing member. One or more movable members can exist about a storage bowl. An actuator unit can be activated by a detector unit responsive to the number of coins in the bowl to move the auxiliary movable members into a coin release position. Alternatively, a spring-biased actuator unit can be used for automatically moving the movable member for storing and releasing coins.